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ABSTRACT

This book presents two qualitative case studies conducted in two small-town New England high schools. It is dedicated to parents, educators, and community members who are committed to school improvement. The 10 chapters are divided into 3 parts. Part 1, "Understanding the Often Problematic Relationship between Parents and Schools," contains four chapters: (1) "Why Focus on Improving Relationships between Parents and Educators?" (2) "What Can Be Learned from Looking at the Past?" (3) "How Do Competing Roles Complicate Relationships?," and (4) "What Influences Parents' Opinions about High School?" Part 2, "Understanding Tensions Created by Different Opinions about Teaching and Testing," features three chapters: (5) "What Is Learning? What Is Teaching?" (6) "What and How Should Students Learn?" and (7) "How Should Student Learning Be Assessed?" The last part is entitled "Building Bridges to Parents and the Community." Its 3 chapters are: (8) "Parents as Learners: Four Profiles"; (9) "Opening Doors to Parents and Community Members: Snapshots and Suggestions;" and (10) "From Parent Involvement to Community Building: A Call to Action." Two appendices provide a description of the studies and a list of resources. (Contains an index.) (RJM)

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